

Oak Middle School
2015 SUMMER READING LIST

Summaries adapted from Amazon.com

*Students are asked to read **three books** from the list. **One book must come from the Sponsored Novels section.** The other two books may come from either the Sponsored Novels selections or the Supplemental List.*

- *Denotes novels that contain content appropriate for mature readers.*

Sponsored Novels

All students must read at least one title from this list.

Fiction

Chat Room by Kristin Butcher – Easy

Linda is shy and avoids getting involved at school. But when her high school sets up online chat rooms she can't resist the urge to visit them. Fuelled by interest in a student with the nickname Cyrano, Linda participates in online conversations using the nickname Roxanne and gains a reputation as the queen of one-liners. Soon Linda starts receiving gifts from a secret admirer who signs his gifts, "C." She is certain that her life has taken a turn for the better until "C" reveals his true identity.

Cobra Strike by Sigmund Brouwer - Easy

After discovering tainted water in the creek near his grandmother's cabin in the Kentucky hills, senior Roy Linden slowly uncovers a connection between his high school team's new star quarterback, his own football future, and the source of the pollution.

Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life or any book in the series, by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts – Easy

It's Rafe Khatchadorian's first day at Hills Village Middle School, and it's shaping up to be the worst year ever. He has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix, but luckily he's got an ace plan for the best year ever--if only he can pull it off. With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct. But not everyone thinks Rafe's plan is a good idea, especially not the teachers, parents, and bullies who keep getting in his way. Will Rafe decide that winning is the only thing that matters? Are things about to go from magic to *tragic*?

Struck by Deb Loughhead - Easy

When Claire starts to experience success she'd never dreamed possible, she worries that a magical event is the cause.

Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli - Easy

When Stargirl Caraway enters Mica High in 10th grade, students don't know what to make of her independent spirit and non-conformity. Leo is eventually won over, but his loyalty is challenged as Stargirl's rise to popularity comes crashing down.

Titan Clash by Sigmund Brouwer - Easy

Jack Spencer has more to worry about than being kicked off his high school's basketball team. He uncovers suspicious circumstances surrounding the car crash that severely injured his mother and learns of his father's arrest for fraud. For the most part, he has it pretty good. Jack is a star player on his high school basketball team with everything going for him--scoring records, popularity and an easy path to a college scholarship. Almost as fast as the crash that put his mom in the hospital, everything Jack believes in starts to crumble. His

only hope is to discover what's really going on, and quickly. If he doesn't, Jack may lose much more than a basketball career.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt - Easy

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

Viola in Reel Life by Adriana Trigiani – Average

I'm marooned.

Abandoned.

Left to rot in boarding school . . .

Viola doesn't *want* to go to boarding school, but somehow she ends up at an all-girls school in South Bend, Indiana, far, far away from her home in Brooklyn, New York. Now Viola is stuck for a whole year in the sherbet-colored sweater capital of the world. There's no way Viola's going to survive the year—especially since she has to replace her best friend Andrew with three new roommates who, disturbingly, actually seem to *like* it there. She resorts to viewing the world (and hiding) behind the lens of her video camera. Boarding school, though, and her roommates and even the Midwest are nothing like she thought they would be, and soon Viola realizes she may be in for the most incredible year of her life. But first she has to put the camera down and let the world in.

Hoops by Walter Dean Meyers - Average

A former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake befriends a teenage basketball player from Harlem.

Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok – Average

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life—like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition—Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but also herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper – Average

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares – Average

Some friends just fit together. Once there was a pair of pants. Just an ordinary pair of jeans. But these pants, the Traveling Pants, went on to do great things. This is the story of the four friends—Lena, Tibby, Bridget, and Carmen—who made it possible.

Tangerine by R.J. Palacio - Average

So what if he's legally blind? Even with his bottle-thick, bug-eyed glasses, Paul Fisher can see better than most people. He can see the lies his parents and brother live out, day after day. No one ever listens to Paul, though--until the family moves to Tangerine.

Whirligig, by Paul Fleischman – Average

With a family always on the move, popularity and the ability to fit in quickly are vital to Brent Bishop's high school survival. When he blows his chances with the girl of his dreams in front of everyone, he's devastated. Brent tries to end it all in a fatal car crash, but instead he finds an unlikely beginning. He's sent on a journey of repentance—a cross-country trip building whirligigs. His wind toys are found by people in need: a Maine schoolgirl yearning for her first love, a Miami street-sweeper desperate for peace and quiet, a kid in Washington who just wants to play baseball, and a San Diego teenager dealing with loss. Brent's whirligigs bring hope to others, but will they be able to heal the wounds deep inside himself?

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain - Challenging

Like many young people, Tom would rather be having fun than going to school and church. This is always getting him into trouble, from which he finds unusual solutions. One of the great scenes in this book has Tom persuading his friends to help him whitewash a fence by making them think that nothing could be finer than doing his punishment for playing hooky from school.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson - Challenging

Climb aboard for the swashbuckling adventure of a lifetime. *Treasure Island* has enthralled (and caused slight seasickness) for decades. The names Long John Silver and Jim Hawkins are destined to remain pieces of folklore, with its dastardly plot and motley crew of rogues and villains.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee - Challenging

Originally written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* was the novel Harper Lee first submitted to her publishers before *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Assumed to have been lost, the manuscript was discovered in late 2014. *Go Set a Watchman* features many of the characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird* some twenty years later. Returning home to Maycomb to visit her father, Jean Louise Finch—Scout—struggles with issues both personal and political, involving Atticus, society, and the small Alabama town that shaped her. Moving, funny and compelling, it stands as a magnificent novel in its own right.

Historical Fiction

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia – Average

Eleven-year-old Delphine has only a few fragmented memories of her mother, Cecile, a poet who abandoned the family in Brooklyn after giving birth to her third daughter. In the summer of 1968, Delphine's father decides that seeing Cecile is "something whose time had come," and Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile's home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars. "No one told y'all to come out here," Cecile says. "No one wants you out here making a mess, stopping my work." For meals, Cecile sends the girls to a Chinese restaurant or to the local, Black Panther-run community center. Over the course of the next four weeks, Delphine and her younger sisters spend a lot of time learning about revolution and staying out of their mother's way. This book immerses readers in a time and place and raises difficult questions of cultural and ethnic identity and personal responsibility.

Milkweed by Jerri Spinelli – Average

He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself, and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi, with tall, shiny jackboots of his own—until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.

Words in the Dust by Trent Reedy – Average

Zulaikha hopes. She hopes for peace, now that the Taliban have been driven from Afghanistan; a good relationship with her hard stepmother; and one day even to go to school, or to have her cleft palate fixed. Then she meets Meena, who offers to teach her the Afghan poetry she taught her late mother. And the Americans come to her village, promising not just new opportunities and dangers, but surgery to fix her face. These changes could mean a whole new life for Zulaikha--but can she dare to hope they'll come true?

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi - Average

Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But I was just such a girl, and my story is worth relating even if it did happen years ago. Be warned, however: If strong ideas and action offend you, read no more. Find another companion to share your idle hours. For my part I intend to tell the truth as I lived it.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox - Challenging

Snatched from the docks of New Orleans, thirteen-year-old Jessie is thrown aboard a slave ship where he must play his fife so that captured slaves will "dance," to keep their muscles strong and their bodies profitable for their owners' use.

* The Book Thief by Markus Zusak – Challenging

Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayors reclusive wife, and especially her foster parents.

Fantasy

Fablehaven, any book in the series by Brandon Mull – Average

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming.

Off the Page, by Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer – Average

Meet Oliver, a prince literally taken from the pages of a fairy tale and transported into the real world. Meet Delilah, the girl who wished Oliver into being. It's a miracle that seems perfect at first. But not every story can have a happy ending, because the book wants Oliver back and it will turn both worlds upside down to get him. Oliver and Delilah will have to decide what—and who—they're willing to risk for love and what it really means for a fairy tale to come true.

Science Fiction

The Maze Runner or any book in the series by James Dashner – Average

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind.

The Selection or any book in the series by Kiera Cass – Average

For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown

she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

Mystery/Thriller

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin – Easy

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings - Average

Brady loves life on the Chesapeake Bay with his friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, like the DiAngelos, his parents and friends are bitter about the changes. Tragedy strikes when the DiAngelos' kayak overturns in the bay, and Brady wonders if it was more than an accident. Soon, Brady discovers the terrible truth behind the kayak's sinking, and it will change the lives of those he loves forever.

Ms. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

* The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum Ucci - Challenging

First-novelist Plum-Ucci wraps a well-crafted mystery around a topical issue: the effect teenage intolerance can have on misfits. When class freak Chris Creed suddenly disappears, his fellow students are not so much worried but abuzz with speculation: Is he a runaway, a suicide, a crime victim? Through a complicated but believable turn of events, narrator Torey Adams, a popular 16-year-old, starts to feel some concern and resolves to find the truth.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie – Challenging

"Ten . . ." Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U. N. Owen." "Nine . . ." At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead.

* Paper Towns by John Green – Challenging

When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q . . . until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.

Non-Fiction

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Saved the World by Malala Yousafzai

I Am Malala. This is my story. Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of

peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson – Average

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson - Average

Chew On This shares the fascinating and sometimes frightening truth about what lurks between those sesame seed buns, what a chicken 'nugget' really is, and how the fast food industry has been feeding off children for generations.

*** Into the Wild by John Krakauer - Challenging**

After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive, apparently stranded by an injury and slowly starving. In a moving narrative, Krakauer probes the mystery of McCandless' death.

How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie - Challenging

For more than sixty years the rock-solid, time-tested advice in this book has carried thousands of now famous people up the ladder of success. Learn: * Three fundamental techniques to working with people * The six ways to make people like you * The twelve ways to win people to your way of thinking * The nine ways to change people without causing resentment

Supplemental List

Students may choose up to two novels from this list.

Fantasy

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo – Easy

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper – Average

On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones - Challenging

In this giant jigsaw puzzle of a fantasy, people and things are never quite what they seem. Destinies are intertwined, identities exchanged, lovers confused. The Witch has placed a spell on Howl. Does the clue to breaking it lie in a famous poem?

The Subtle Knife by Phillip Pullman, *His Dark Materials Book 2* - Challenging

Sequel to: The Golden Compass. As the boundaries between worlds begin to dissolve, Lyra and her daemon help Will Parry in his search for his father and for a powerful, magical knife.

The Amber Spyglass, by Phillip Pullman - Challenging

From the very start of its very first scene, *The Amber Spyglass* will set hearts fluttering and minds racing. We immediately discover who captured Lyra at the end of *The Subtle Knife*, though we've yet to discern whether this individual's intent is good, evil, or somewhere in between.

Castle in the Air by Diana Wynne Jones - Challenging

Abdullah the rug merchant leaves his humdrum life far behind when he purchases a threadbare magic carpet from a mysterious stranger. Almost immediately, Abdullah is whisked off on a series of adventures that bear an uncanny resemblance to his own daydreams.

First Light, by Rebecca Stead – Challenging

Twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, where he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life, and begins an adventure he never would have imagined possible.

Science Fiction

Fantastic Voyage, by Isaac Asimov - Easy

A story about five people shrinking down and going into a scientist's body. They try to destroy a blood clot in the scientist's brain with a laser. Throughout the entire book the team uncovers many problems that they must face to complete the mission. The team has only 60 minutes to get to the clot and destroy it, and get out of the body.

Running Out of Time by Margaret P. Haddix – Easy

What if the costumed workers at historical sites really lived there, and tourists watched them through hidden cameras rather than from pathways? What if those workers and families were not allowed to leave, ever? Jessie lives in the 1840s, or so she believes until her mother sends her on an escape mission outside the fence, where it's 1996.

Matched or Crossed by Ally Condie – Average

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.

Graphic Novels

Anya's Ghost. By Vera Brosgol – Average – Graphic Novel

This graphic novel tells the story of Anya, a Russian immigrant, whose lack of self-esteem changes when her life is almost taken over by a determined ghost.

Fiction

Crash by Jerry Spinelli – Easy

Ever since first grade "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting dweeby Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, "chippy chirpy perky" Penn becomes an even better target: he joins the cheerleading squad.

Cosmic, by Frank Cottrell Boyce – Easy

Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.

The Misfits by James Howe – Easy

The four "misfits" are slightly larger than life wiser than their years, worldlier than the small town setting would suggest, and remarkably well-adjusted but there remains much authenticity in the story's message about preadolescent stereotyping and the devastating effects of degrading labels. An upbeat, reassuring novel that encourages preteens and teens to celebrate their individuality.

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes – Easy

More than anything Martha wants to be a writer. The problem is that her father does, too. Is there room for two writers in a single family? This is only one of the many questions that beg to be answered during Martha's twelfth summer. Here are others: Is Godbee, the paternal grandmother whom the family is visiting at Cape Cod, dying? Why is Martha's father so angry? Could Jimmy, the eldest of the five neighboring Manning brothers, be falling in love with her (and vice-versa)? And what does all this have to do with Olive, Martha's mysterious classmate, who died after being hit by a car weeks earlier?

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli - Easy

He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.

Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper – Average

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Million Dollar Throw, by Mike Lupica – Average

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Crazy Lady by J. Conly – Average

In this story, a boy comes to understand his own life through his relationship with Maxine and her special son.

The Pigman by Paul Zindel - Average

When sophomores John and Lorraine played a practical joke a few months ago on a stranger named Angelo Pignati, they had no idea what they were starting. Virtually overnight, almost against their will, the two befriended the lonely old man.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli – Average

Palmer dreads turning ten because he does not want to become a "wringer" at Family Fest. After great personal struggle, Palmer stops being afraid and stands up for what he believes in.

California Blue by D.Klass - Average

A 17-year-old loner with a passion for nature discovers a new species of butterfly in the old-growth forest near his home and is thrust headlong into the battle between environmentalists and the timber industry. A gripping story of a young man holding on to personal convictions in spite of family and community pressure.

Moves Make the Man by Bruce Brooks - Average

Jerome Foxworthy -- the Jayfox to his friends -- likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball.

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot (Five Volumes... can read any) – Average

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke - Average

This suspenseful tale begins in a detective's office in Venice, as the entirely unpleasant Hartliebs request Victor Getz's services to search for two boys, Prosper and Bo, the sons of Esther Hartlieb's recently deceased sister. Twelve-year-old Prosper and 5-year-old Bo ran away when their aunt decided she wanted to adopt Bo, but not his brother.

The Death Defying Pepper Roux, by Geraldine McCaughrean – Challenging

Pepper Roux decides to test fate and embarks on a journey the day before he turns fourteen, which is also the day he is expected to die, meeting outrageous friends and dangerous enemies along the way.

Historical Fiction

Brady by Jean Fritz - Easy

Brady has never been trusted with secrets, until now. When he discovers an Underground Railroad station near his family's farm, he is forced to make his own decision about the slavery controversy. Whatever his decision may be he knows that this is one secret that must be kept.

Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs – Easy

Fifteen-year-old Jason first hears about the discovery of gold in the Klondike while working as a paperboy in New York. He quickly rushes to Seattle to meet up with his brothers, only to find that they have left for the Yukon without him. As he goes the trip alone, adventures pile up.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman - Easy

The story takes place in medieval England. The protagonist is Alyce, who rises from the dung heap (literally) of homelessness and namelessness to find a station in life--apprentice to the crotchety, snaggletooth midwife Jane Sharp.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Kelly - Average

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli - Average

A historical novel about a young woman who longs to experience the wide world beyond her cloistered window. The year is 1592, and 14-year-old Donata is a pampered member of the noble Mocenigo family. But Donata is restless.

The Ramsay Scallop by Frances Temple – Average

Thirteenth century couple, Elenor and Tom, overcomes their reluctance to marry after they are sent on a pre-nuptial journey to Spain and learn more about the world and each other.

The Brooklyn Nine, by Alan Gratz – Challenging

Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball

Fly Girl, by Sherri L. Smith – Challenging

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The Secret of Sarah Revere by Ann Rinaldi – Challenging

Thirteen-year-old Sarah Revere knows her father is a hero. But she also knows that Paul Revere guards a secret about the start of the Revolutionary War that he'll tell no one--not his new wife, not his best friend, not even his trusted daughter. It seems *everyone* in her family has secrets. Sarah's even got one--and it's tearing her apart.

Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns - Challenging

The one thing you can depend on in Cold Sassy, Georgia, is that word gets around - fast. When Grandpa E. Rucker Blakeslee announces one July morning in 1906 that he's aiming to marry the young and freckled milliner, Miss Love Simpson - a bare three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward - the news is served up all over town with that afternoon's dinner.

Nine Days a Queen by Ann Rinaldi – Challenging

Lady Jane became a pawn in the complex game of political maneuvers, until, with the death of King Edward VI, she was forced to accept the throne as a move to block Mary and her Catholic supporters. When Mary's right to the throne was recognized, she had 16-year-old Jane beheaded.

Echoes of the White Giraffe by Sook Nyui Choi – Challenging

Sequel to: Year of impossible goodbyes. Fifteen-year-old Sookan adjusts to life in the refugee village in Pusan but continues to hope that the civil war will end and her family will be reunited in Seoul.

Gathering of Pearls by Sook Nyui Choi – Challenging

Sequel to: Year of impossible goodbyes. Sookan struggles to balance her new life as a college freshman in the United States with expectations from her family at home in Korea.

Mystery

The Hideout by Eve Bunting – Easy

Twelve-year-old Andy feels he would be better off with his father in England than in his San Francisco home with his mother and her new husband. To raise the money needed to finance his trip to England, he stages his own kidnapping, but the plan backfires when someone decides to make the kidnapping a reality.

The Sally Lockhart Trilogy: The Ruby in the Smoke, The Shadow in the North, The Tiger in the Well by Phillip Pullman - Challenging

"Her name was Sally Lockhart; and within fifteen minutes, she was going to kill a man." Philip Pullman begins his Sally Lockhart trilogy with a bang in *The Ruby in the Smoke*--a fast-paced, finely crafted thriller set in a rogue- and scalawag-ridden Victorian London. His 16-year-old heroine has no time for the usual trials of adolescence: her father has been murdered, and she needs to find out how and why.

Non-Fiction (Not leveled)

How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg, Kevin O'Malley – Non-Fiction

Over the course of history men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess-especially before the modern medical care that we all enjoy today. *How They Croaked* relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer, by James L. Swanson – Non-Fiction

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis, by Al Gore – Non-Fiction

Former vice-president Al Gore theorizes that making bolder choices regarding the environment in the twenty-first century will create more jobs, stimulate the economy, and inspire a new generation of potential world leaders.

Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland, by Sallie M. Walker – Non-Fiction

Reports on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s; and uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others.

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

If surviving the first 20 years of a new nationhood weren't challenge enough, the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, centering in Philadelphia, was a crisis of monumental proportions. Murphy chronicles this frightening time with solid research and a flair for weaving facts into fascinating stories, beginning with the fever's emergence on August 3, when a young French sailor died in Richard Denny's boardinghouse on North Water Street.

Police Lab: How Forensic Science Tracks Down and Convicts Criminals by David Owen

Police Lab shows how forensic scientists gather and analyze evidence, examine weapons and bodies and use DNA testing and other techniques to help solve crimes. Twenty real-life case studies show forensic scientists in action and demonstrate the fascinating secrets of police labs.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong

As Shackleton and 27 sailors attempted to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other, they were trapped in an ice pack, lost their ship to the icy depths, survived an Antarctic winter, escaped attacks from sea lions, and traversed 600 treacherous miles to the uninhabited Elephant Island.

Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues by Patricia McKissack

Traces the history of baseball in the Negro Leagues and its great heroes, including Monte Irwin, Buck Leonard, and Cool Papa Bell.

Black Potatoes by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

A compelling story of men, women, and children in Ireland who defied landlords and searched empty fields for scraps of harvested vegetables and edible weeds to eat, who walked several miles each day to hard-labor jobs for meager wages and to reach soup kitchens, and who committed crimes just to be sent to jail, where they were assured of a meal. It's the story of children and adults who suffered from starvation, disease, and the loss of family and friends, as well as those who died.

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Rosa Parks. Harriet Tubman. Shirley Chisholm. The lives these women led are part of an incredible story about courage in the face of oppression; about the challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights; and about speaking out for what you believe in--even when it feels like no one is listening.

Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust by Susan Bachrach

Bachrach makes the victims of Hitler's cruelty immediate to readers, showing that, like readers, they were individuals with hobbies and desires, friends and family.

Biography

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

A complete and enjoyable book about one of the nation's most fascinating and important figures, Abraham Lincoln. Russell Freedman covers Lincoln's life and career in a balanced treatment that is enhanced by period photographs and drawings.

Autobiography

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic

From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo.